Exemption of Municipal Taxes for Ex-servicemen

2343. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some State Governments are not implementing the Government of India directive dated 24th July, 1979 regarding exemption of payment of municipal taxes to ex-servicemen;

(b) whether Government have recently received any representation from ex-servicemen regarding their problems on this account; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (c) Government of India letter dated 24th July, 1979 makes reference to exemption of Armed Forces personnel from payment of taxes levied by Municipalities/District Boards. It does not contain any directive for the grant of exemption to ex-Servicemen from payment of Municipal taxes. All representations received from ex-Servicemen or their Associations in this regard are replied, clarifying the position.

Position of Russia in Indian Arms market

2344. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in Hindustan Times of 1st February, 1992 under the caption 'Russia may be shut out of Indian arms market' that Russia may not be in a position to compete with other arm dealers in the country if the present trend in Russia continues; and

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any decision without waiting for economic stability in Russia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Government have seen the news report.

(b) No such decision has been taken.

Renting of IAF Aircraft

2345. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the rules and regulations under which IAF aircraft can be taken on rent by individuals and organisations;

(b) the number of times, IAF aircrafts were rented out during the last six months;

(c) the names of persons who used the IAF aircraft during the above period and the number of flying hours made during each trip; and

(d) what was the expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) IAF aircraft are not provided on rent to private individuals and organisations.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.